

FY 2018
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.
 Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **May 8, 2018**.

(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)

Project Name	Iron Mountain Communication Site Permit
District name (or "Forestwide")	Moose Creek Ranger District
County(ies) where project located?	Idaho County
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST be the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Adam McClory, Realty Specialist, NP-C, (208) 875-1734; Nate Bondelid, Random Investments, LLC., (208) 733-6283, nate@tek-hut.com; Jenni Blake, Moose Creek District Ranger, (208) 926-8930;
Legal Location <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T. 30 N., R. 7 E., Section 2, Boise Meridian
District Ranger / Line Officer's Name <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Cheryl Probert, (208) 935-4265
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	No.
Which CE Category does this project fit? <i>Provide citation: 36CFR 220.6(d)(x) or 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\CE Categories</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) <u>Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.</u>
<p>For projects that fit a <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d)(x) category</u> a Project Record or written Decision are not required:</p> <p>IF submitting under 36 CFR 220.6(d), does the Decision Maker want the project to go through the Small NEPA process*? Y__X__ N__</p> <p><i>If no, this form does not need to be submitted to the Small NEPA planner.</i></p> <p><i>If yes, fill out the remainder of the form and have Decision Maker submit it to Small NEPA planner.</i></p> <p>* NOTE: ALL 36 CFR 220.6(e) projects go through the Small NEPA process.</p>	

For projects submitted under a 36 CFR 220.6(e) category, or are being submitted for Small NEPA under a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category (see above), at what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?

Internal ____ External X

Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website, and postcards with a link to the website/scoping letter. The scoping letter/postcards will be mailed to the full NEPA mailing list unless otherwise specified.

What Level of Analysis (see below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

____ **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

X **Moderate level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little more broad). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less an three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

Nez Perce 1987 Forest Plan, Management Area 2: This management area includes Ranger Stations, work centers, and other administrative sites. These sites are not displayed on management area maps.

See O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas

What are the desired conditions for the Management Area(s) relevant to your project?

Goals for Management Area 2: Provide and maintain sites for facilities necessary for the administration of Nez Perce National Forest lands.

Standards for Management Area 2:

Facilities: Improvements – construct improvements to meet facility support needs for Forest administration.

Desired conditions are described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans. List those that apply.

Is the project in a Roadless Area? Yes* No See below

The location of the facilities, as identified on the site plan and maps, borders the O'Hara/Falls Creek Roadless Area (RA); however, the exact location of the facility at the Iron Mountain Communication Site has yet to be determined. The final location will be based on ensuring the technical operability of the facility (i.e. providing the best signal to the Elk City School). As such, the building and tower may be located within the RA boundary. Conversely, it may be determined that the best location for the site would be outside of the RA. In anticipation of the facility being located in the RA, a Briefing Paper will be completed.

** If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* No

Although adjacent to the O'Hara Research Natural Area (RNA), the facilities would not be located in the RNA.

If yes, which one(s)?

** If yes, contact Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us, 935-4270, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

Does the project involve road construction, reconstruction, temporary roads, or haul routes?

Yes* No

** If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, or Haul Routes' table below.*

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes No

Are Municipal Watersheds located in the project area? Yes No

If yes, which one?

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes No

Is the project in the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area? Yes No

Describe the existing condition of the project area.

The Iron Mountain Communication Site on the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests (NP-C) is located on the Moose Creek Ranger District at an elevation of 6,815' above sea level. The site is accessed by Forest Service Road 464G (native surface) is typically accessible late June – October/November.

The Iron Mountain Communications Site was first developed by Contel (who merged with GTE Northwest in the early 1990's, became Citizens Communications and is now Frontier Communications) in the 1960's for microwave relay. The Forest Service constructed facilities at the site in the 1970's for two way radio communications.

The Iron Mountain Communication Site includes the following existing facilities:

- NP-C, 8.5' x 7.5' concrete block building and 40' lattice tower. Currently this building houses the Bureau of Land Management communication equipment.
- NP-C, 10' x 11' concrete block building, 40' lattice tower.
- First Step Internet, LLC, 8.5' x 20' metal building, 40' lattice towers (4) attached to building, 3' x 5' solar array (8) – attached to towers.
- State of Idaho, 5' x 6' metal box
- Frontier Communications, 8' x 8' metal building, 15.5' x 7.5' metal building, 20' lattice tower, underground propane tank, solar array (128 panels – 20"x 43.5" each).

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action*?

The purpose is to upgrade the connectivity Elk City School. The project is being supported by the State Department of Education and the Governor's Office.

This project is 100% for the school located in Elk City. The State of Idaho has made equitable access a priority and a grant has funded providing the same access to the students in Elk City as the students in Grangeville.

** The purpose and need describes: Why the action is being proposed at this location and at this time (the need) and the desired objectives/outcomes of the action (the purpose).*

Describe the Proposed Action.

What is provided will be used in the Scoping Letter, by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document so be thorough, detailed, and descriptive. Please include all project-related activities that may have an impact on the environment.

Please describe, in narrative paragraphs, the following for the Proposed Action:

Tek-Hut, Inc. is proposing to install new communication facilities at the existing Iron Mountain Communication Site (see 'existing conditions' above for a list of the current facilities at the IRCS). Tek-Hut will construct and maintain the facilities. A (30-year term) Communication Use Lease to operate the equipment at the site would be issued to Tek-Hut.

The proposed action for this project, encompassing of a total footprint of approximately 30' x 30', will include:

- 8' x 14' brown metal building to house communications equipment
- 40' self-supporting lattice tower (with 4 yards of concrete for the base)
- 250 gallon propane tank (8' long and 3' tall) installed under the tower
- 8kw generator (3' long x 2' wide x 2' tall) will be installed inside the building
- 63" x 41" solar panels (8) installed on the building

The location of the facility, as identified on the site plan and maps, borders the O'Hara/Falls Creek Roadless Area (RA); however, the exact location of the facility at the Iron Mountain Communication Site has yet to be determined. The final location will be based on ensuring the technical operability of the facility (i.e. providing the best signal to the Elk City School). As such, the building and tower may be located within the RA boundary. Conversely, it may be determined that the best location for the site would be outside the RA. In anticipation of the facility being located in the RA, a Briefing Paper will be completed.

The Forest Service will work with Tek-Hut, Inc. to locate the facility outside of the RA.

The tentative start date for the project is May 25, 2018, depending on Forest Service approval of the NEPA as well as accessibility to the site. Construction is expected to take 45 days. If the permanent site is not able to be fully constructed by July 1, 2018, two temporary portable trailers (Cell on Wheels or COW; each 16' long x 8.5' wide) would be parked at the site to allow the school uninterrupted access. The trailers would be towed to the site by a standard-sized pickup. The use of the trailers would be authorized under a 1-year Communication Use Lease issued to Tek-Hut. Once the permanent facility was completed (summer 2018), the trailers would be removed from the site, and the 30-year term Communication Use Lease authorized/issued.

This project will not change access restrictions in the area.

Tek-Hut, Inc. operates ~30 tower sites across the state of Idaho, and delivers Network Services to more than 50 School Districts supporting more than 75,000 students.

List the Design Criteria and Mitigation Measures to be included in the Decision Memo.

NW-3: Remove all mud, soil, and plant parts from off road equipment before moving into project area to limit the spread of noxious weeds. Conduct cleaning off National Forest lands.

Additional Design Criteria/Measures can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form

List the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be included in the Decision Memo. Please don't just provide the reference numbers.

At a minimum, consider appropriate BMPs for water quality standards and weed management.

Additional BMPs can be listed under "Additional Information" on the last page of this form.

Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc.* who will be included for Scoping (external scoping only), including their mailing address and/or email address. DO NOT provide just a name.

** The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will automatically be scoped. The following will also be included on all SN scoping/mailling lists: Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, Thomas E. Peterson and Bill Mulligan.*

Please attach to your project submission email, separate from this form, a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) per the instructions outlined below. Please make sure that the layers can be turned on/off on your PDF map(s).

The Map(s) need fit on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

At least one map, with (preferably) a “portrait” orientation, showing the project location/activities as points, e.g. culvert, mineral exploration site, etc.; lines, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc.; and/or the project boundary as a polygon, e.g. stand, treatment area, etc. Do not use a point when treating an area, use a polygon.

The map(s) needs to include identifying features, such as towns, roads, trails, rivers/streams, geophysical landmarks, etc. to identify where the project is on the landscape.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer (see below*). This will standardize the appearance of the maps for scoping. Please do not add contour lines to the map unless needed. Contour lines make the map difficult to read. A topo map may be used as a substitute for the FV Map, as long as there are sufficient identifying features on the base layer that can be used to identify the project’s location. If contour lines are not important to defining the location they should be turned off.

The preferred (not required) scale is 1:24000. If the project area can’t be adequately shown at 1:24K, use a larger scale (> 1:24K) showing the entire project area and if needed, provide additional maps showing details of the project activities. **Please make as few maps as possible.** Conversely, if the 1:24K scale is too large (i.e. the project / action area is a tiny point or a thin line hard to find on a large landscape), use a smaller scale (< 1:24K) to provide more detail while ensuring that the project area’s/activities’ location is identifiable.

All maps should include, at a minimum, a **Title** (include only the district and the project name); a **Legend** with the project feature(s) clearly labeled, e.g. culvert replacement, fence line, x treatment area, etc.; a **Scale** in miles (not km) using full miles, such as 0_0.25_0.5_1.0 miles (ending with 0.5 miles okay); and a **North Arrow**. Please use a black outlined box with a white background (not gray) to display them.

The map(s) are used in the scoping letter (and DM) to show, as clearly and efficiently as possible, what activity or activities are being proposed and where the activity or activities are located on the Forest.

** The Small NEPA geodatabase contains feature classes, including the Forest Visitor Map, that can be used for map creation. The geodatabase is found at:*

T:\FS\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\GIS\SmallNEPA.gdb

If you need help with accessing and/or working with the geodatabase in GIS, contact your Zone GIS Specialist (first) or you can contact Jim Lutes at jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project’s proposed activity(ies) before they will begin their analyses. The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile(s)* to the Small NEPA Planner (jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time the District Ranger submits this form.

*The shapefile(s) need to be labeled with the Project Name and Feature.

* The shapefile(s) should include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

*A location where the shapefile(s) can be found (ex., T drive) does not meet this obligation.

***The shapefile(s) do not substitute** for providing a map.

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource and your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mhays01@fs.fed.us; 983-4028
 Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, dbawdon@fs.fed.us; 963-4211
 Heritage – Steve Lucas, slucas@fs.fed.us; 983-4040
 Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, cvalle@fs.fed.us; 963-4203
 Minerals – Marty Jones, martinjones@fs.fed.us; 983-5158
 Recreation – Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us; 935-4270
 Soils – Robert Bergstrom, robertbergstrom@fs.fed.us; 963-4287
 Wildlife – Jim Lutes, jameslutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202

Projects in Roadless Area

<p>What is the Roadless Area name?</p> <p>O'Hara/Falls Creek</p>	<p><u>Idaho Roadless Area (IRA) Name:</u></p> <p>O'Hara/Falls Creek</p> <p><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></p>
<p>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management classification (permitted activities vary by classification).</p> <p><i>Classifications include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	<p>Classification: Special Areas</p>
<p>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</p>	
<p>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</p>	
<p>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No</p> <p>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</p>	

Projects Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, and/or Haul Routes

Note: Specialists will address items 9-11 (*in italics*) below.

ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS	YES / NO	MITIGATION MEASURE/COMMENTS
1. Will road construction or reconstruction be required? Type of road and length.	No	
2. Will temporary roads be needed?	No	
3. Will road maintenance be needed? Who will perform?	No	
4. Will there be a change to the current road restrictions?	No	
5. Are haul roads part of an established snowmobile network?	No	
6. Are there public safety concerns for roads, trails, or other road improvements?	No	
7. Are there other improvements which will require protection?	No	
8. Does the area currently meet Forest Plan standards for soils?	No	
9. <i>Will the project impact elk security?</i>	No	
10. <i>Will the project or log haul impact winter range?</i>	No	
11. <i>Will the project impact critical elk summer range?</i>	No	

JC : 01/10/2018

Additional Information: